As Athletic Branch That Is Rapidly Becoming Powerful in the Field-Father Yan Rensselner's Benovolent Project-A Fine Club House and a Membership

Boll of Nearly Fifteen Hundred, "We do not expect to set the athletic world "We do not expect to set the athletic world airs, but we intend that the day shall not be present when it will be a common occurpage to see a Navier man brea-t the tape first." Such was the modest though confident decjaration of a prominent official of the Xavier athletic Association a short time ago, and the quiet assurance of the announcement has been justified by the frequency with which the club's emblem has been born to the front recently, as well as by the number of high-class athletes enrolled, who cannot fall to pake the "Cherry X" a well-known insignia

is the near future.

The history of this organization is filled with microst. While it may not have set the athletic world after it has certainly caused a very warm furry in some portions of it, and the present gominant position the association occupies is remarkable—first, from its mushroom growth. and, second, the unusual circumstances by which it has surung from an obscure and comparatively unknown organization to one of the premost athletic associations of the vicinity. For years the larger clubs have preyed upon the minor organizations for athletic talent to heep up their prestige. No sooner did a mem-



PATREB VAN BENSSELAER.

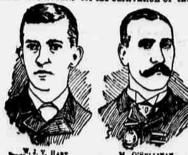
brofasmall club display ability out of the william order of things than he was gobbled by an ambassador from one of the rich organons being, of course, offered inducements or the change of emblems. This evil grew to sech an extent that the Amateur Athletic Union brought special legislation to bear upon the subject, which protects the smaller dabe in some degree. Inasmuch as it requires an athlete to procure his please from one club before joining another. If the athlete cannot obtain his release he is prevented for a year from entering games from say club but that which holds him, at the end of which time he is at liberty to join any club. Like many other amateur laws, this can be ended, and is sometimes. The athlete enter-ing from New York city can compete in the ers of the club he is desirou- of represent he the reserve rule not covering this techsical evasion of the spirit of the law.



Xavier's All-Round Champion.

The Xavier Athletic Association was brought to notice several months ago, when rumors eran to spread that the almost unknown club was securing prominent athletes from the large data. These reports were verified in time. to the newcomer became the all-absorbing topic in athletic circles. It was such an extraordinary condition of affairs that particulars were sought after, and in the investigation which followed interesting developments came to light, the most astonishing of which was that religious pressure was brought upon athletes to join the new club.

In December, 1889, the Rev. Henry Van Benswest Sixteenth street, founded a social organfeation at 50 West Bixteenth street which he called the Xavier Club, the object being to afford Catholic young men every facility for rational enjoyment amid surroundings congesial to morality, and at the same time to offer ample opportunity for the cultivation of their



O'SULLIVAN, Weight ther tastes by the formation of evening dases, and by giving them access to a carefully selected library of standard, secular, and

religious works, and magazines of the day. A See story house was fitted up with reception and music rooms. library and reading room, besling alleys, billiard and pool tables, and a see that the meeting room. Father Van Rensselaer paid the expenses and turned the management over to the members. The initiation fee was fixed 4 62. and dues at 50 cents per month.

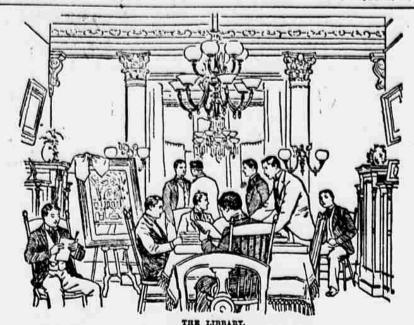
With these inducements the membership sereased from 200 to 800 in a few months, and the spreading branches of the "lub made more room imperative. The Van Rense laer coffers were opened, the property at 27 and 29 West Sixteenth street was purchased and the build-tage turned into a club house, which for its size is a model. No expense was spared in the alterations and furnishings, and when the slub house was for mally opened last February by Archbishop Corrigan the generous, op nhearted young priest, Father Van Rensselner, had expended nearly \$100,000.

The membership climbed into four figures. and the athletic contingent grew in proportion. The reverend patron grew enthusiastic about The reverend pairon grew enthusiastic about the athletic association and devo ed his attention to that he cit. A campaign was inausurated against the big club, and prominent athlete of the Catholic faith were sent for and interviewed by Father Van Renspeler. The result is that the following femiliable list of well-known athletes have been enrolled in the Xavier Club: James Aliciell, the weight thrower of the rew fork A. C.; T. P. Conneff, W. McCarthy C. Devereaux, J. T. Norten, and Courad sarts, the crack runners of the Manhattan A. C.; M. O'hullivan and J. Mooney, the all-around

men of the New Jersey A. C., the latter having cle ely pushed Alexander Jordan for the recent all-around championship; F. M. Edwards, the New Jersey A. C.'s high jumper; J. J. Regers, the New Jersey A. C.'s disance runner; F. P. Murray of the Acorn A. A., the champion walker; D. O'Sullivan and M. Sweney, the Pastime A. C.'s weight thrower a d high jumper, respectively. Many others have been taken into the fild who are dangerous handlean men, and at last Saturday's meeting of the Prospect Harriers the cuboutnointed all others, being credited with winners of restrict es in the mile walk, three-mile run, and running high jump. At the Lorillard's games, the same day, Navier representatives scored one first, one second,

chess rooms take up the third floor, while the fourth floor is devoted to class rooms, instruction being given in English and foreign languages, stenography, mathematics, and drawsing. The top floor is occupied by four billiard and four pool tables, and it would be difficult to fluid a more pleasant place to knock around the ivories. The present membership is between 1,300 and 1,500.

While the athletic association, with its 500 members, is the main branch of the Xavier Club, the other numerous ad uncts are by no means, minor affairs, and this is principally true of the baseball association, which last year won the Archdiocesan Union League championship, having as competitors the following nines: Cathedrals, Raphaels, Et Andrews

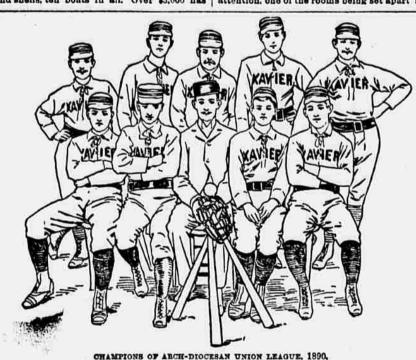


and two thirds, being tied for the point honors. At the recent Buffalo three-days' meeting the Xaviers were the only New York athletes to make any showing. McCarthy winning the mile run, Rogers the Bye-mile run, Moriarty and O'Bullivan being second in the walk and hammer throwing respectively.

Recently the old grounds of the American Athletic Club at 135th street and Fourth avenue were secured by the club, and Pete Golden, the six-day pedestrian engaged as trainer and trackmaster. The club also has a bont house at 145th street and Harlem River, which is furnished with an eight-cared barge, gigs.

At the recent Buffalo three-days' meeting the Kavists were the only Now York athletes to make any showing. McCarthy winning the mile run, Rogers the five-mile run, Moriarty and O'Sullivan being second in the walk and hammer throwing respectively.

Itecently the old grounds of the American Athletic Club at 135th attest and Pott haven now were secured by the club, and Pete Golent, the six-day pedestrian, engaged as trainer and trackmaster. The club also has a boot house at 145th street and Harlem River, which is furnished with an eight-oared barge, gigs, and shells, ten boats in all. Over \$3,000 has

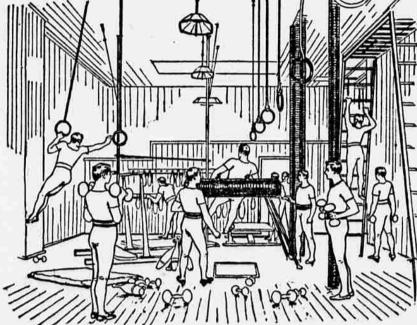


been expended on this branch, all from the bottomless coffers of the Van Reasselaer family.

The large club house in West Sixteenth street is handsomely atted up with all that will tend to attract young men to spend their leisure time there. In the double basement are bowling alleys and gymnasium. The former are four in number, and are of the most approved model. The gymnasium is furnished with all of the latest combination.

The development of plates. In addition to the already long list of advantages there is a class in vocal music and sight reading, under the direction of the Rev. B. J. Young, choir master of St. Francis Xa. is r Church.

No other organization offers such a multitude of privileges for \$2 initiation and 50 cents per month dues, and the membership is steading libration of the 2,000 mark. The club is open to all Catholics, irrespective of parish. Father Van Rensselaer, whose munificence

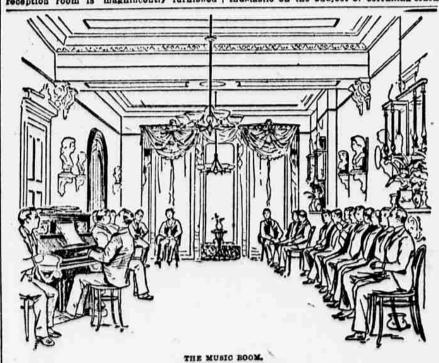


THE GYMNABIUM.

appliances. A suspended running truck and a professor of physical culture are the promised addition to what seems the coaiest symmasium in the city. Lockers, wash rooms, and shower baths are also on this floor for the convenience of symmasts and bowlers.

On the parlor floor are the reception room. The reception room is magnificently furnished

has made possible this great organization. Is both a-tonished and delighted at the phe omenal success of his praiseworthy proct. "I started it to keep young men off the street." he said. "and having accomplished that, the rest us folded itself." It was with a pardonable feeling of pride that he took the rep rter through the building showing the young men at their favorice pastimes. The young priest is enthusiastic on the subject of corralling crack



with red plush furniture, valuable paintings, br c-a-brac. Bru-sels carpet, and handsome rugs. The lib ry and reading room are well stocked with books man a lies, and newspaiers, and are pleasant places to study or read, convers ion not being sermited. The music ball takes up one entire sade of the parior floor, and is the meeting place of the convex and price of the club, who gather there in full force every evening. In re is a first-class glee club and a safrly good orchestra. The young men entoy the meeting no religious restraint up in them.

Meeting and committee rooms, card and

athletes, and any ema'eur not really wishing to old the Xaviers had better keep out of Father Van Rensselaer's way. When asked about the athletes the Xaviers were stealing Father Van Rensselaer laughed and replied: "It aling? My dear boy, what do you call stealing? My dear boy, what do you call stealing? Surely, if I ask a sentleman to join my clab I am not stealing him."

Father Van Rensselaer is one of the old family and a young man still. Handsome talented lovable, he is at once meater and comrade of his young me, who fairly idolize him. With his great wealth and brains to push it, the Aavier Club certainty has a great future before it.

Davis was after you," he yelled, and Johnny, without a question, shook the reins and said get up.

The race was on, for Farmer James John Roberts with his fresh team was tearing down the road but four mites away. From Remsen to Prospect it is a nearly level track, and there was no tope of sluding the old man by a side cut or doubling on the trail. Johnny knew very well it was a question of speed now, for he understoed the reference to Coustable John Davis, and that the old man would stop at nothing to inte cept or overtake him.

"Get up, Bess!" and he piled the whilp until the gray broke into a gallop and went tearing out of the village with a clatter that startled the sleepy-going people on all sides. It was less then three miles to Prospect, and his nag could stand that much of a ran. "She's got to stand it." he thought, as the flecks of dirt thrown up by the wheels pecked him on the back and head. "Get up, Bess I Bly goll, Lib, we've got to run, but we'll fetch the still water ahead o' his hounds, never fear."

The arm folks star-d in amaxement as they flew along the road. Some men ran out thinking it was a runaway. Men in milk waxons pulled instilly to one side iest a collision upset them. Some recognized them and the circumstance and yelled and the real hilariously, while Johnny gratted his teeth and held a tight regu. and the girl by his side, with flushed cheeks and her hair streaming out, looked straight ahead and never-aid a word. A mile out less the only grade worth mention.

But Her Father Would, By Gum, Much to the Dude's Sorrow.

Prom the Globe Democrat.

The Cairo Short Line passenger from Paducah had a very heavy I ad of excursionists Sunday, returning home from Kentuosy, where they had been spending the Fourth. Among the number was a supper little man from St. Lo is whose name is withheld because it would add nothing to this o'er true story. He was very sweet, at least his vanity told him so. The dude sported avonder pants, a black silk tennis shirt, a flashy tie, and wore a No. 55 beaver hat. Like all of his kind, this dude had a mania for breaking hearts, and made himsel: conspicuous by seling all the ladies on the train and by loud remarks drawing attention to himself. His forte, though, was a prome-sale at the various stations where the train pulled up. Then he was in his element, as he minced along the pla form or took up an artist e pose, as much as to say, Look at me, ain't I sweet. "Whenever he approached a woman, be she black or white this colish dude had some feane witting in the station or rack at her expense.

This conduct continued till the train reached a stat on this side of Pinckneyville ill, where a long hait was made. Here was the dude's opportunity, here he surpassed all previous efforts in his role as a railway masher, and here, alsa, he was overtaken by a vengeance.

On the platform stood an old gray-halfred gentiems, with strongly maked features, and by his side a modest girl of 17 years, neatly and becomingly dressed. They we evidently father and daughter. The natty little dude spled them as soon as the train pulled in. Here was his opportunity, of which he quickly availed himself, Acomparied by three companions he walked slowly past the coupe, making some remark as he reached them. The girls cheeks crimsoned, while an ominus frown gathered on the lather's brow. Uniware of their danger, the quartet or reached the substitution and one public state of the seast she only procedor was an old man, no danger was appreciated, the individual has been and brinker

Brittany is a land of memories and legends; the present is of no eccount; the past reims supreme and self-asserting; modern ideas are at once engulfed and super-ceited by Old World remissionen sa. The counties Government of republican France become mythical and what it is actual and real is the old "Connetables," the pre-sense of Du Guedolin, whose status at the pre-sense of Du Guedolin, whose status at the pre-sense of Du Guedolin, whose status at becomes I Palais de Justice option-line.

Brittany has dwindled down to a population of operating the pre-dute of their morsel of the pre-sense of Du Guedoline the status of the pre-sense of Du Guedoline the produce of their morsel of monething and the latered or declined at real times attacked fluores and unrise the past of the part of the past of the pa

The SUND SUNDAY, JULY 12. 1989.

The ADA RACE FOR HIS BRIDE.

The Sunday of American Sunday of the Sunday of American Sunday of

For Electric Lamps in Place of Platinum. Word comes from Vienna that a Capt. Walter has discovered a meth-d of amalgamating glass with other metals besides platfinum. This dis overy will encable manufacturers of electric lamps to make them at a cost much electric lamps to make them at a cost much less than at present. The platinum wire used in the construction of the build is the most expensive part of the lamp. One reason why platinum is used is that it has nearly the same rate of expansion as glass. Changes of tempera ure cause both to change bulk at nearly the same rate, so that if the elatinum wire once fills the holes through the glass it always does so, and thus prevents the farush of air, which would be fatal to the life of the carbon filament. It would seem then, that Capt. Waiter's discovery will enable copper and other metals to fulfill this conditions

TO MAKE RAIN TO ORDER.

UNCLE SAM TO SEE WHAT HE CAN DO AS A PROFESSIONAL RAIN DUCTUR

A Party of Scientists Bound for Ranson to Try and Break the Windows of Henven With Dynamite Guas and Balloons.

WASHINGTON, July 11.-Some time within the next few days there is going to be a noise out in Western Kaneas. Uncle Sam's rain makers are bound thither with a provision of explosives sufficient to stock a fair-sized volcano in active operation. They take with them threescore ballcons, each 10 feet in diameter when expanded; likewise about 100 kites 5 feet high, a freight car full of wooden mortars to fire bombs from, and many thousands of pounds of dynamite, gunpowder, nitro-glycernature with spasms. If there is not a second deluge in the region mentioned within a f-rtnight it will not be for lack of effort on the part of Gen. Dyrenforth and the Department

of Agriculture.
Seven thousand dollars yet remains of the \$9.000 appropriated by Copgress for this purnose and so there is no need to economize on the fireworks for the preliminary experiment. Because it is a matter of history that storms have often followed heavy canno along in warfare, it has been thought desirable to attack the sky for this meteorological purpose with a regular line of battle. A convenient and excessively and plain will be selected for operations, and the wooden mortars will be planted across it in drills, as it were, for a distance of about two miles. They will be loaded with dynamite, rackarock, and other materials calculated to agitate the atmosphere as much as possible, while at autable intervals of space the balloons will be aranged for ascension. imultaneously a flight of kites will be let loose in the sir.

The three-soors balloons will in themrelyes

represent an extraordinary solen inc novelty. They are all completed now, and each one is calculated to hold about 525 cubic feet of gas one-third oxygen and two-thirds hydrogen. The exygen is put in first and then the hydrogeo. Each balloon upon being inflated as-

WHY SHOULD A MAN KILL HIMSELF? Nearly All Methods of Self-Murder Have Been Exhausted.

From the Chicago Privana A prominent physician who has made a study of suicide said the other day:

Why should a mas kill hinself? The popular answer is, "Because he is crazy?" Noientiformen essily disprove that, bu are still somewhat at son in devising a bet, or answer. Were the philosopher Sence a one, the bether? Were the philosopher Sence a one, the bether? Were the philosopher Sence a one, the bether? Were despatch of themselves in same? Surely not.

The Greeks rarely committed suicide, but at one time it was quite the inshion in Home. It is the rarest of raritles for a slave to commit suicide, though a slave comer often does. Extensive inquiry inils to develop a single case of an Amelican negro's committing suicide, though there have been a lew cases among mulattos and octoroons. Shall it be said, hen, that the super or race is the suicidal? Surely not, for the Greeks we sat is ast the equals of the Homans. The solution must be sought elsewhere eligious belief has something to do with the tree ligious belief has something to do with the tree ligious belief has something to do with the tree ligious belief has something to do with the tree ligious belief has something to do with the tree ligious belief has something to do with the tree ligious belief has something to do with the tree ligious belief has something to do with the tree ligious belief has something to do with the street of makind and n to blowest intelected all grades of any society sielde is practically nuknown, and among the hishest in race or culture it is extremely rare, while in the middle or lower middle classes it is most common. It is those who are midway on the course, whether as races or individuals, those who are in the stringels, whi lose beart and rush until don into eternity. This is only another way of saying that whore the laties of the last degree curi-use. In many case well-to-do suicides simply allege that they are irred of illegate and the windle and with the sone and the windle as a decrease is not to be said on the them and the windle as the maked

Mr. Watson's Game Hen.

From the Nacrod ches Chronicia. Mr. John T. Watson who lives in the southern subur's of our city, has a hen that takes the blue ribbon for pluck. She has a brood of young chickens. A hawk swooped down upon her brood. She caught the hawk with her talons clung to him, and pecked his eyes out, and tore the top of his head off in less time than it takes to tell it.